

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1998

664B0847

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

6

Introduced by: Senators Kloucek, Albers, Brosz, Dennert, Drake, Dunn (Rebecca), Flowers, Hunhoff, Hutmacher, Lange, Morford, Olson, Reedy, Symens, and Valandra and Representatives Lucas, Chicoine, Haley, Jaspers, Koetzle, and Kooistra

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Endorsing the *We the People . . . Project Citizen* Program.

2 WHEREAS, the American experiment of representative, self-governing democracy can only
3 function effectively with the consent and participation of an enlightened, competent, and
4 responsible citizenry; and

5 WHEREAS, the various levels of governing--local, state, and federal--must be understood
6 by citizens if they are to communicate their views and ideas to representatives to shape and
7 implement public policy; and

8 WHEREAS, overwhelming evidence exists that citizens have low opinions about the work
9 of state legislatures and have relatively little knowledge about what their representatives do; and

10 WHEREAS, civic education is essential for citizens to develop a common language and
11 understanding of politics and governing; and

12 WHEREAS, civic education is an important tool to develop the habits of civic virtue
13 including civility, individual responsibility, self-discipline, open-mindedness, compromise,
14 tolerance of others, patience, persistence, compassion, generosity, and loyalty to one's nation and

1 community; and

2 WHEREAS, civic education is most effective when the principles that sustain representative
3 democracy are instilled at an early age; and

4 WHEREAS, *We the People . . . Project Citizen* civic education program for middle school
5 classes is an effective, successful tool for teaching young citizens how to address state and local
6 community public policy issues by:

- 7 (1) Identifying a public policy problem in their community;
- 8 (2) Gathering and evaluating information on the problem;
- 9 (3) Examining and evaluating solutions;
- 10 (4) Selecting or developing a proposed public policy; and
- 11 (5) Developing an action plan; and

12 WHEREAS, classes participating in *We the People . . . Project Citizen* learn that government
13 and public service cannot just be observed, but must be experienced with hands-on action and
14 communication; and

15 WHEREAS, participation in *We the People . . . Project Citizen* involves numerous segments
16 of the community in teaching students about the legislative process:

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Seventy-third Legislature
18 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that it is the
19 sense of the Legislature that *We the People . . . Project Citizen* is an ideal tool to teach young
20 middle school students about the reality and promise of citizenship in a representative
21 democracy; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the sense of the Legislature that *We the*
23 *People . . . Project Citizen* is an effective civic education program to which we should devote
24 our attention, support, resources, and continued involvement to ensure its implementation,
25 preservation, and sustained development.